

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 15 are amended and Claim 20 is added. Claims 1-20, as amended, remain in the application. No new matter is added by the amendments to the claims.

In the Office Action dated March 18, 2005, the Examiner objected to Claims 3-5 because the phrase "Claim 3" appears to be a typographical error since Claim 3 should not depend from Claim 3 and Claims 4-5 are necessarily objected to because of their dependency.

Applicants amended Claim 3 to depend from Claim 2 as was originally intended.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baake (US 4,156,893). Regarding Claim 1, the Examiner stated that Baake discloses an elongate hollow cylindrical body (12 in Fig. 1a) formed of a translucent material having a first end and a spaced apart second end; an elongate fluorescent lamp (14) disposed within said body (12) and having a first end with extending conductor pins (16) and a spaced apart second end with extending conductor pins (17); a first socket (18) for receiving said pins (16) of said first end of said lamp; a cap (48) secured to said first end of said body for retaining said first socket (18) within said first end of said body; a second socket (19) for receiving said pins (17) of said second end of said lamp; a handle (70) secured to said second end of said body for retaining said second socket (19) within said second end of said body; an electrical conductor (106, 107) for providing electrical communication between a source of electrical energy and said lamp (14), said conductor extending through said handle; and a support means (66) for supporting the assembly.

Regarding Claims 9-11, the Examiner stated that Baake discloses a hook (66) mounted pivotally on the cap (48).

The Examiner rejected Claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baake in view of Meltzer (US 6,123,434). According to the Examiner, Baake does not disclose that the cap or the handle are formed of a pair of mating sections, but Meltzer teaches a fluorescent worklight having a handle and an end cap, and the handle and the end cap are formed of a pair of mating sections.

The Examiner rejected Claims 12-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baake in view of Richardson (US 6,773,130). The Examiner stated that Baake does not disclose a pair of clip stand, but that Richardson teaches a fluorescent lamp having a cap and a handle having grooves (66 and 70 in Fig. 9) and a pair of clip (40 in Fig. 1) stands including a pair of C-

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shaped clips (Fig. 12), and that the clip stand is releasably attached to the grooves of the cap and the handle.

The Examiner objected to Claims 3-5 and 7-8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims

Baake shows a portable lamp with a hollow, light-transmitting tubular housing 12 having one end received in an end cap 48 and an opposite end received in a handle 70. The housing 12, the end cap 48 and the handle 70 are held together by a plurality of rods 126 located outwardly of the housing 12 and spaced thereabout. The rods 126 are fixed at opposite ends to the end cap 48 and the handle 70 and function as tension elements to draw the end cap 48 and the handle 70 toward each another and against the adjacent ends of the housing 12.

Applicants amended Claims 1 and 15 and added Claim 20 to clarify that the elongate hollow body provides the only external connection between the cap and the handle. In contrast, Baake uses a plurality of external tension rods.

Meltzer shows a worklight housing 12 that has an integral handle portion 18 and upper portion with an opening 32 for a lens 22.

Richardson does not use a housing. The exposed fluorescent lamp 42 is retained in sockets 44 and 46.

Thus, the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the claimed invention.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above arguments, Applicants believe that the claims of record now define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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